

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for a media agent to monitor multiple broadcast transmissions, each broadcast transmission containing media content, comprising:

identifying the broadcast transmission to be monitored;

establishing connections with the identified broadcast transmissions

identifying, for each connected broadcast transmission, at least one characteristic of the media content associated with the connected broadcast transmission through a statistical pattern recognition scheme, without the need for the media content to include a unique identifier that is derived from, inserted or embedded in the media content; and

maintaining the association between the identified at least one characteristic of the media content and the connected broadcast transmission.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast transmissions are composed of streaming audio data.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcast transmissions are transmitted over the Internet.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the statistical pattern recognition scheme is accomplished through an historical analysis of the media content associated with the connected broadcast transmission.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the pattern recognition scheme examines the audio portion of the media content.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

terminating the connection to the identified broadcast transmissions after the step of identifying the at least one characteristic of the media content is complete; and

wherein the step of establishing connections with the identified broadcast transmissions is not performed simultaneously for all broadcast transmissions.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

re-establishing, when a transition in media content is expected, connections to the identified broadcast transmissions whose connections were terminated.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the expected transition in media content is based on a duration of the media content.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting the at least one characteristic of the media content to a user for each connected broadcast transmission.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a selection of one of the at least one characteristic of the media content from among all the at least one characteristic of the media contents presented to the user; and
causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the selected at least one characteristic of the media content.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media content is a musical genre.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media content is a title of a song.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media content is a name of an artist.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving preferred media content parameters from a user.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:
determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media content parameters;
and

presenting a notification to the user when the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred media content parameters.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media content parameters; and

causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the certain type of characteristic when the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred media content parameters.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media content parameters; and

recording the broadcast transmission associated with the certain type of characteristic when the at least one characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred media content parameters.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein recording the broadcast transmission is performed for the purpose of time-shifting.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

accessing a pre-determined set of broadcast transmissions from an advisor database where each pre-determined broadcast transmission is associated with a classification;

wherein the step of identifying the broadcast transmissions to be monitored is accomplished through an analysis of the classifications associated with the set of predetermined broadcast transmissions and the preferred media content parameters.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the statistical pattern recognition scheme is accomplished through a historical analysis of characteristics of media content associated with the identified broadcast transmission.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method comprising the steps of:

selecting a group of broadcast transmissions to be monitored, each broadcast transmission containing media content; and

repeating, for each broadcast transmissions in the group of broadcast transmissions,
the steps of

establishing a connection to the broadcast transmissions; and
identifying characteristics of the media content contained in the connected broadcast transmissions through an analysis of the connected broadcast transmissions without the need for the media content to include a unique identifier that is derived from, inserted or embedded in the media content.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
presenting the identified characteristics of the media contents to a user.
Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising:
receiving from the user a selection from among the identified characteristics of the media contents presented to the user; and
causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission that is associated with the selection.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
receiving from the user a selection of preferred media content parameters;
determining whether the identified characteristics of each media content is within the preferred media content parameters; and
notifying the user when the identified characteristics of a media content is identified as being contained in a broadcast transmission within the group of broadcast transmissions.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A media agent comprising:
a user interface for a user to identify, either directly or indirectly, a plurality of broadcast transmissions;
a network interface for receiving the plurality of identified broadcast transmissions from a network;
a media decoder for decoding each broadcast transmission received from the network;
and
a monitoring module for identifying at least one characteristic of the media content of the decoded broadcast transmission through a statistical pattern recognition scheme without

the need for the media content to include a unique identifier that is derived from, inserted or embedded in the media content.

Claim 27 (original): The media agent of claim 26, wherein:
the user interface presents the at least one characteristic of the decoded broadcast transmission to the user.

Claim 28 (original): The media agent of claim 26, wherein the monitoring module is additionally for associating the identified at least one characteristic of the media content with the broadcast transmission received from the network.